Assistance of potable water crisis in States

† 1867. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan to give assistance to the States suffering from potable water crisis;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have prepared any outline for giving special economic assistance to the major States suffering from potable water crisis by giving special category status to such States to save them from this crisis under this plan; and

(c) if so, the names of States which have been given this status and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) A Centrally sponsored scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), already exists to provide financial assistance to the States for providing drinking water facilities in rural habitations. The financial assistance under ARWSP is provided as per a laid down criteria, which takes into account the rural population, geo-hydrological conditions, number of not covered/ partially covered habitations and water quality situation in the State/UT. State Governments/UT Administrations can utilize 15% of the allocated funds for tackling water quality problem. Recently, the Government of India has conceived Bharat Nirman plan for development of rural infrastructure in four years. Drinking Water Supply is one of the six components of Bharat Nirman, which envisages, *inter-alia,* tackling of water quality problems in all quality-affected habitations. There is, however, no proposal under consideration to give special category status to any of the States.

Allocation for houses constructed under IAY

1868. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: